



CITY SNIPPETS

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COMMScope, CITY OF HICKORY CELEBRATE NEW PUBLIC WI-FI DOWNTOWN

Visitors to Union Square in Downtown Hickory can now enjoy free public Wi-Fi thanks to a generous \$275,000 product donation by Hickory-based CommScope.

To celebrate the activation of the Wi-Fi service, a ribbon cutting for "The CommScope Stage" was held on June 1 at the new Union Square shade structure.



In May 2020, Hickory City Council officially accepted the product donation from CommScope and approved a public facility naming request to honor the sizable donation and its impact to the community.

"The City of Hickory is very fortunate to be home to a global communications networks provider that invests locally to improve the lives of its neighbors here in Hickory," said Hickory City Manager Warren Wood.

"The installation of public Wi-Fi downtown further promotes the connectivity we are building throughout the city with the Hickory Trail and our other bond projects. Thanks to CommScope's significant donation and continued partnership with the City, Hickory residents and visitors will be able to stay connected for work or recreational purposes while enjoying the

enhanced atmosphere and amenities of our renovated Union Square," added Hickory Mayor Hank Guess.



CommScope donated various connectivity technologies to the Union Square Wi-Fi project. The City of Hickory will cover ongoing maintenance and the annual service contract.

Downtown guests have access to Wi-Fi signal throughout the Union Square plaza and in part of Lowes Foods City Park. To connect to the public Wi-Fi, downtown guests should look for "DowntownHickory-PublicWiFi" in the list of available networks.

"Whether they're in the ground, inside buildings, or traveling through the air, communication networks must evolve to meet the demands of an increasingly connected society," said Burk Wyatt, former Chief Legal Officer of CommScope, who recently retired after more than 25 years with the company. Mr. Wyatt also serves as chairman of the City's Bond Commission.

"People expect the apps on their smartphones and tablets to work without any interruption of service," Wyatt continued. "With CommScope being founded in Hickory more than 40 years ago, we are honored to help the residents and visitors of Hickory's Union Square remain connected by donating our RUCKUS Wi-Fi solutions to this important project. This donation helps demonstrate that CommScope supports the City's Bond Commission efforts to continue to improve and revitalize our community."

ADDRESS

76 North Center Street

WEBSITE

HickoryNC.gov

PHONE

828.323.7400

ISSUE

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HICKORY CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, August 3 & 17
7 p.m.

Julian G. Whitener
Municipal Building (City Hall)
www.HickoryNC.gov



DOWNTOWN HICKORY FARMERS MARKET

Wed: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sat: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The Sails on the Square
www.HickoryFarmersMarket.com

JUNIOR HMA

Exhibition Open
Hickory Museum of Art
Sponsored by: City of Hickory
www.HickoryArt.org

HICKORY THEN & NOW

Monday, August 2
6 p.m.
Patrick Beaver Memorial Library

BACK TO SCHOOL BLOCK PARTY

Friday, August 20
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Taft Broome Park

For more events, check
www.HickoryEventsCalendar.com

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STUDENTS GET INSIDE LOOK INTO CITY GOVERNMENT

Written by Hickory Public Schools student Kayla Ruff

Leadership 2000 and Beyond is a weeklong summer internship program that allows local high school students to get a behind-the-scenes look at the operations in nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and private businesses within the city of Hickory. In the first year of the internship, rising 9th grade students spend their week at a nonprofit organization learning valuable skills in regards to helping others and giving back to those who need it most. In the second year of the internship, students learn about the operations of city government agencies in Hickory.



Brian Schoellner, Nyla Moore,
Madeleine Johnson, Kayla Ruff,
Boone Herman, Ben Howard,
and Berkeley Geyer

Rising 11th graders in this year's Leadership 2000 group spent the first day of the internship in city government touring Patrick Beaver Memorial Library and Fire Station 1, in addition to listening to city leaders speak about plans to grow the City. Students were also able to speak directly with representatives of different departments in the City Department Expo. During the first week of June, I was fortunate enough to intern in the Office of Communications with Communications and Marketing Manager Dana Kaminske and Communications Specialist Sarah Killian. This internship made me realize that communication and public outreach are vital to growing Hickory into a city that people want to move to and don't want to leave.

Hickory has lots to offer, and the Office of Communications is in charge of making sure potential residents are aware of that. One particularly intriguing factor to those thinking about moving to Hickory is our downtown and the many events that take place there. During the week of my internship, I was able to attend the Side/Show event presented by the Western Piedmont Symphony and sponsored by the City of Hickory. Even with looming thunderstorms, this event was a hit. Musicians were set up in different locations throughout downtown, and I thought it was a creative way to showcase the musicians while also allowing people to tour the many shops and restaurants of downtown Hickory. Seeing the dedicated work that goes into each event, video, and social media post has given me a new appreciation for Hickory's Office of Communications. Interning here has allowed me to not only learn about how the Office of Communications is vital to growing Hickory, but it has also been a fun experience that has given me a new perspective on the city I have grown up in.

Leadership 2000 allows high school students to make valuable connections and learn about the nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and private sectors that are assets to our community. This wide range of departments gives students the opportunity to be exposed to many different careers and take on a variety of contrasting roles during their weeklong internship. Being exposed to such a wide variety of departments has helped me grow both professionally and personally, and any rising 9th grade student with an open mind and an enthusiastic attitude will benefit greatly from this program.